

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PK

SUBJ: NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN IN THREE MONTHS

1. THE CMLA RECENTLY ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO THE PLANNING DIVISION OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY TO PREPARE THE OUTLINE OF A NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN. THE DIRECTIVE SAID THE PLAN IS TO FOCUS ON THE SATISFACTION OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS THROUGH " INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, HIGHER INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, INCREASED MANPOWER TRAINING AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR."

2. WE CALLED ON CHAUDRY SHAUKAT ALI, JOINT SECRETARY FOR PLAN CORDINATION, PLANNING DIVISION, TO LEARN MORE DETAILS. ALI SAID THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS GOALS WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY A RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH UTILIZED RESOURCES FROM LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID PAKISTAN ALREADY HAD HAD EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SORT OF MODEL IN THE LATE 1950'S AND EARLY 60'S WHEN, AS PART OF A USAID-SPONSORED VILLAGE AID PROGRAM, LOCAL INSTITUTIONS PROVIDED MAN-
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POWER AND MATERIALS TO BUILD CLINICS AND SCHOOLS WHICH WERE STAFFED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATED WITH FEDERAL GRANT MONEY.

3. ALI SAID HE THOUGHT PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN AID REQUIREMENTS, EXCEPT FOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE CURRENT BOP GAP COULD BE REDUCED BY POSTPONING LARGE

CAPITAL INTENSIVE PROJECTS AND CONCENTRATING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ALSO BY GREATER EMPHASIS ON MOBILIZING LOCAL RESOURCES.

4. ALI HOPED THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD COME FORTH WITH ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT AND SAID THAT HE EXPECTED SOME KIND OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVES WOULD BE BUILT INTO THE PLAN.

5. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS NEW STRATEGY WOULD MEAN A SIGNIFICANT REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FROM THAT PRESENTED IN THE FIVE YEAR PLAN PUBLISHED IN APRIL, ALI SAID THAT OF COURSE SOME CHANGES WOULD BE MADE; PARTICULARLY IN CAPITAL INTENSIVE INVESTMENT, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE UTILIZATION OF LOCAL RESOURCES COULD MINIMIZE DRASTIC CHANGES.

6. COMMENT: THE IDEA OF USING LOCAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE RURAL AREAS TO INCREASE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INVESTMENT, HAS LONG BEEN A FAVORITE OF THE PLANNING DIVISION AND OF ITS SECRETARY. HOWEVER, IMPLEMENTATION HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING ALTERNATIVE POWER CENTERS AND ALSO BY THE SHEER DIFFICULTY OF ORGANIZING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT IT CAN NOW BE IMPLEMENTED.

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